

**“What began as a so-called miracle, groundbreaking technology, meant for practicality and convenience, quickly became one of the most pressing environmental and public health concerns in the modern world.”**

~ Michael Regan, EPA Administrator, on PFAS, March 2023



**ARTICLE 12  
MELOFCHIK SUBSTITUTE MOTION**

**The Melofchik Substitute Motion would:**

- 1. ESTABLISH A STUDY COMMITTEE**
- 2. PAUSE ANY NEW ARTIFICIAL TURF  
UNTIL A REPORT IS SUBMITTED**

**NO LATER THAN SPRING, 2025**

**BUT MAYBE SOONER!**

# Crumb Rubber is Dangerous

- polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)
- metals (like lead, cadmium, etc.)
- volatile organic compounds (VOCs)
- plasticizers
- carbon black
- styrene (neurotoxic)
- butadiene (carcinogen)
- flame retardants
- even many of the newer “natural” infill materials, including BrockFILL, contain toxins

# PFAS in Plastic Grass

Public Employees for  
Environmental Responsibility

- In 2019, PEER discovered that artificial turf contains per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)
- Nicknamed “forever chemicals”
- PFAS are persistent, they bioaccumulate, they are toxic
- All artificial turf that have been studied have PFAS

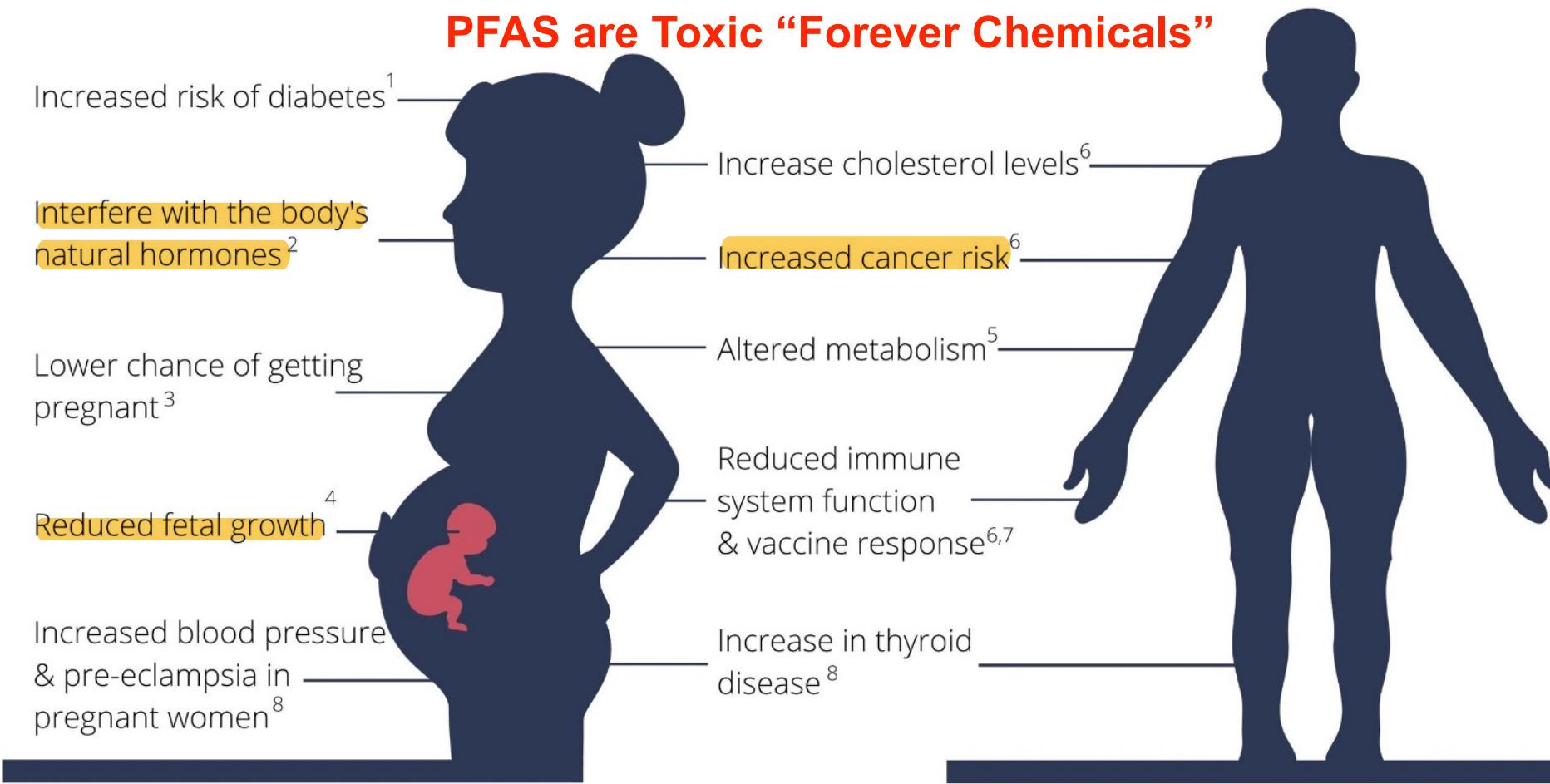
# Plastic turf causes local plastic pollution



A 20-ton plastic field can shed 480 lbs of micro-plastics each year.

These plastic particles: don't fully degrade; accumulate in the environment, soil, and water; and enter the food chain.

# PFAS are Toxic “Forever Chemicals”



**While the knowledge of potential PFAS health effects has grown, many questions remain unanswered. Continued research is needed to better understand the effects of PFAS exposure.<sup>2</sup>**

# “No safe level” of PFAS

Maximum Contaminant Level

- EPA proposed MCLs in March 2023 4 ppt for PFAS

That's equivalent to a drop of water in an olympic-sized pool

- “...there is no dose below which PFAS is considered safe

# **PFAS leaches off artificial turf fields into water**

From wetlands, streams, rivers, oceans, into the foodchain

- water around artificial turf quickly becomes contaminated
- In Martha's Vineyard, a study shows that 12 ppt of PFAS leaches off a new field

# Artificial Turf Contributes to Climate Change

- natural grass absorbs CO<sub>2</sub> and releases oxygen
- artificial turf does the opposite (releases CO<sub>2</sub>, methane, other chemicals)
- manufacturing, installation, service and disposal of a 2-acre artificial turf field generates a total of 55.6 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>

# Artificial turf sheds microplastics

- 218 kg/year (480 pounds/year)



# Artificial turf is *not* recycled in the US

- The Pennsylvania Re-Match recycling facility has not been built, and is being fined
- Exxon's Texas "advance recycling" plant uses pyrolysis  
Considered incineration by the EPA, it releases PFAS into the air.
- There is NO recycling of artificial turf

# Plastic turf is a disposal nightmare



*Rolls of discarded plastic turf in PA*

Plastic turf is not recyclable. It lasts forever, leaching PFAS and other toxic chemicals into the environment.

# PFAS is the new Asbestos

- EPA's new MCLs will open the door to huge liabilities
  - Maximum Contaminant Level
- States are making even more stringent MCLs
- Class action suits for contaminated water abound

# **States are trying to ban artificial turf**

- Bills pending in:

- California
- Massachusetts
- Vermont
- Connecticut

**Vote YES on the Melofchik Sub Motion  
to**

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- \* PAUSE ANY NEW ARTIFICIAL TURF  
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